Growth in Agricultural Production

†3804. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural production has shown merely 1.5 per cent annual increase during the first three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if not, the assessment of Government and the extent to which the actual growth rate of production is less than the fixed target;

(c) whether Government have considered the special steps to be taken to increase the growth rate of production in the remaining years of the plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) (a) and (b) The Tenth Five-Year Plan had targeted gross domestic product (GDP) growth in agriculture and allied sectors at 4 per cent annum. The growth in GDP at factor cost at 1993-94 prices in respect of agriculture and allied sectors during the first three years of the Tenth Plan is expected to average only 1 per cent annum.

(c) and (d) Important steps taken or envisaged to increase the growth rate of production include substantial increase in public investment in agriculture and irrigation sectors during 2004-05 and 2005-06; enhancement in institutional credit to the agriculture sector; initiation of new schemes like National Horticulture Mission and Micro Irrigation, rejuvenating support systems like extension, and making agricultural research more responsive to the needs of the agriculture sector.

Increase in Unemployment

†3805. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that percentage of unemployment was 8.87

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.